

**§255.7 System owner participation in other systems.**

(a) Each system owner shall participate in each other system and each of its enhancements (to the extent that such owner participates in such an enhancement in its own system) if the other system offers commercially reasonable terms for such participation. Fees shall be presumed commercially reasonable if:

(1) They do not exceed the fees charged by the system of such system owner in the United States or

(2) They do not exceed the fees being paid by such system owner to another system in the United States.

(b) Each system owner shall provide complete, timely, and accurate information on its airline schedules, fares, and seat availability to each other system in which it participates on the same basis and at the same time that it provides such information to the system that it owns, controls, markets, or is affiliated with. If a system owner offers a fare or service that is commonly available to subscribers to its own system, it must make that fare or service equally available for sale through each other system in which it participates.

**§255.8 Contracts with subscribers.**

(a) No subscriber contract may have a term in excess of five years. No system may offer a subscriber or potential subscriber a subscriber contract with a term in excess of three years unless the system simultaneously offers such subscriber or potential subscriber a subscriber contract with a term no longer than three years. No contract may contain any provision that automatically extends the contract beyond its stated date of termination, whether because of the addition or deletion of equipment or because of some other event.

(b) No system may directly or indirectly impede a subscriber from obtaining or using any other system. Among other things, no subscriber contract or contract offer may require the subscriber to use a system for a minimum volume of transactions, and no subscriber contract or contract offer may require the subscriber to lease a minimum number or ratio of system components based upon or related to:

(1) The number of system components leased from another system vendor or

(2) The volume of transactions conducted on any other system.

(c) No system owner may require use of its system by the subscriber in any sale of its air transportation services.

(d) No system owner may require that a travel agent use or subscribe to its system as a condition for the receipt of any commission for the sale of its air transportation services.

(e) No system may charge prices to subscribers conditioned in whole or in part on the identity of carriers whose flights are sold by the subscriber.

**§255.9 Use of third-party hardware, software and databases.**

(a) No system may prohibit or restrict, directly or indirectly, the use of:

(1) Third-party computer hardware or software in conjunction with CRS services, except as necessary to protect the integrity of the system, or

(2) A CRS terminal to access directly any other system or database providing information on airline services, unless the terminal is owned by the system.

(b) This section prohibits, among other things, a system's:

(1) Imposition of fees in excess of commercially reasonable levels to certify third-party equipment;

(2) Undue delays or redundant or unnecessary testing before certifying such equipment;

(3) Refusal to provide any services normally provided subscribers because of a subscriber's use of third-party equipment or because of the subscriber's using the same equipment (unless owned by the system) for access to both the system and to another system or database; and

(4) Termination of a subscriber contract because of the subscriber's use of third-party equipment or use of the same equipment for access to the system and to another system or database.

(c) A system shall make available to developers of third-party hardware and software on commercially reasonable terms the nonproprietary system architecture specifications and other nonproprietary technical information needed to enable such developers to